

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2955

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, XM, GT

SUBJ: EVALUATION OF ILO ACTIVITIES IN GUATEMALA

REF: A) STATE 203991, B) 205679

1. PRINCIPAL ILO ACTIVITY IN GUATEMALA IS 5-MAN TRAINING PROJECT (NO. GUA 72013) AT GUATEMALA'S MANPOWER TRAINING INSTITUTE, INTECAP. PROJECT BEGAN IN EARLY 1960'S WITH THREE MEN AND EXPANDED IN EARLY 1970'S TO 5 MEN. GUATEMALA PAYS 12 PERCENT OF PROJECT COSTS.

2. FIVE MEN ARE SPECIALISTS IN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING, PLANNING, PROGRAMMATIC INSTRUCTION, FINANCE, AND FARMING-LIVESTOCK RAISING, ALL AREAS IN WHICH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS VALUABLE. THE ILO TEAM IS COMPOSED OF MEN COMPETENT BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY.

3. EMBOFF TALKED WITH FORMER DIRECTOR OF INTECAP WHO COMMENTED THAT WHILE ILO PROJECT VALUABLE, IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY ON WHAT IS IN EFFECT PERMANENT BASIS. HE WOULD PREFER TO SEE EXPERTS VISIT FOR FEW MONTHS AT TIME, BEGIN PROJECT AND TRAIN GUATEMALANS TO RUN IT, AND THEN DEPART. EX-DIRECTOR ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT

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BECAUSE OF RECENT TURNOVER AMONG MANY OF INTECAP'S BEST

PEOPLE ILO TEAM'S PRESENCE ON REGULAR BASIS IS MORE VALUABLE AT PRESENT TIME. ONCE NEW PEOPLE GAIN EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT HIS OBSERVATIONS WOULD AGAIN BE VALID.

4. SINCE INTECAP IS RUN BY BOARD COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS, AND LABOR, PROJECTS ARE NOMINALLY SELECTED WITH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, AT PRESENT TIME EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES DOMINATE INTECAP BOARD.

5. SINCE GUATEMALA HAS SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOR THERE IS LITTLE PROBLEM FOR PROJECT TRAINEES TO FIND EMPLOYMENT.

6. OTHER PROJECT MENTIONED REFTTEL B (NO. GUA 72017) WAS TERMINATED IN 1974 AFTER 3-6 MONTHS' WORK.

7. AT GOG REQUEST ILO TECHNICIANS VISIT GUATEMALA TO TEACH COURSES ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS LABOR INSPECTION, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, ETC. IN PAST TWO YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR SUCH COURSES. IN PAST SEVEN YEARS ILO HAS ALSO TAUGHT TWO COURSES ON TRADE UNIONISM. UNION LEADERS WOULD LIKE MORE FREQUENT COURSES BUT GOG APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT AIFLD PROGRAM IS ADEQUATE. TEACHERS HAVE ALL BEEN COMPETENT PROFESSIONALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY, ALTHOUGH GOG WOULD PREFER BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE TO CHOOSE INSTRUCTORS FROM LIST OF AVAILABLE ILO PERSONNEL RATHER THAN HAVING TEACHER DESIGNATED BY ILO.

8. GOG RECEIVES ONE OR TWO SCHOLARSHIPS YEARLY TO TURIN, ITALY TRAINING CENTER FOR WORKERS AND ONE SCHOLARSHIP EVERY YEAR OR TWO FOR LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LABOR STUDIES IN GENEVA.

9. OF APPROXIMATELY 28 TECHNICAL CONFERENCES HELD YEARLY BY ILO, GOG IS INVITED TO THREE OR FOUR AND ATTENDS ONE OR TWO. GUATEMALA IS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON PLANTATION WORKERS.

10. OVERALL, GOG QUITE SATISFIED WITH ILO PROGRAM. ONLY OTHER "CRITICISM" HEARD IS THAT ILO INFLEXIBLE ON IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR ILO CONVENTIONS. EXAMPLE IS THAT ILO ALLEGEDLY WANTS LAW PASSED MAKING IT ILLEGAL FOR CHILDREN UNDER CERTAIN AGE TO BE EMPLOYED AS FISHERMEN, DESPITE FACT GUATEMALA ALREADY HAS

LAW MAKING IT ILLEGAL FOR CHILDREN UNDER THAT AGE
TO WORK IN ANY FIELD. AN ILO OFFICIAL VISITED
GUATEMALA IN LATE 1975 TO URGE SPEEDIER
CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF VARIOUS IMPLEMENTING
STATUTES, BUT FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE GOG WAS GIVEN
ONE-YEAR DEFERRAL.
ANDREWS

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